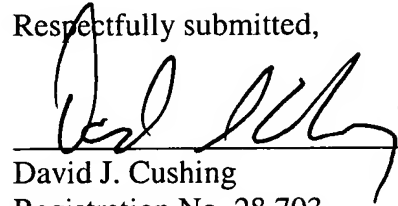


Preliminary Amendment
USSN 10/615,597
Attorney Docket Q76478
May 28, 2004

REMARKS

The application has been amended to delete the multiple dependencies therein, to provide an appropriate heading for the claim section of the specification, and to delete the erroneous improper second paragraph of the abstract. Entry and consideration of this Amendment and an early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



David J. Cushing
Registration No. 28,703
for

Robert V. Sloan
Registration No. 22,775

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: May 28, 2004